

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

**A METHOD FOR CONTRACTING, LOADING OR CRIMPING SELF-EXPANDING AND BALLOON EXPANDABLE STENT DEVICES**

- 5           An apparatus for manipulating a medical device is formed of at least three coupled movable blades which are disposed about a reference circle to form an aperture whose size may be varied. The aperture capable of being sized to contain a medical device. Each blade is in communication with an actuation device which is capable of moving the blade to alter the size of the aperture. Each blade includes a
- 10   single radial point which a) lies on the circumference of the reference circle prior to movement of the blade, and b) may be moved only along a radius of the reference circle on movement of the blade.